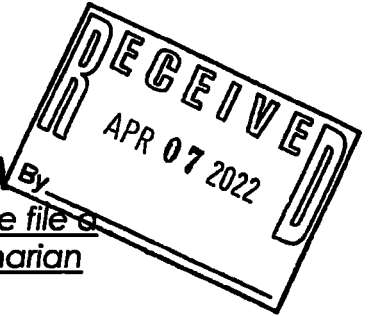


ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD  
1740 W. ADAMS ST., SUITE 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007  
PHONE (602) 364-1PET (1738) FAX (602) 364-1039  
VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION FORM**

*If there is an issue with more than one veterinarian please file a  
separate Complaint Investigation Form for each veterinarian*



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received: April 7, 2022 Case Number: 22-117

**A. THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING:**

Name of Veterinarian/CVT: Timothy Chiasson  
Premise Name: Exceptional Pets Green Valley  
Premise Address: 2585 N ABrego dr  
City: Green Valley State: AZ Zip Code: 85614  
Telephone: 5205953010

**B. INFORMATION REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL FILING COMPLAINT\*:**

Name: Rome Buttel  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED]  
Home Telephone: [REDACTED] Cell Telephone: [REDACTED]

\*STATE LAW REQUIRES WE HAVE TO DISCLOSE YOUR NAME UNLESS WE CAN SHOW THAT DISCLOSURE WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO YOU, SOMEONE ELSE OR THE PUBLIC PER A.R.S. § 41-1010. IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIAL HARM WILL RESULT IN DISCLOSURE OF YOUR NAME PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES OF RESTRAINING ORDERS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.

**C. PATIENT INFORMATION (1):**

Name: Leah  
Breed/Species: European Doberman  
Age: 3 years Sex: Female Color: Black and Rust

**PATIENT INFORMATION (2):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Breed/Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. VETERINARIANS WHO HAVE PROVIDED CARE TO THIS PET FOR THIS ISSUE:**

*Please provide the name, address and phone number for each veterinarian.*

Timothy Chiasson DVM  
Exceptional pets green valley  
2585 n abrego dr green valley,  
Az 85614

**E. WITNESS INFORMATION:**

*Please provide the name, address and phone number of each witness that has direct knowledge regarding this case.*

Nirvana Spivey - [REDACTED]

**Attestation of Person Requesting Investigation**

By signing this form, I declare that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Further, I authorize the release of any and all medical records or information necessary to complete the investigation of this case.

Signature: 

Date: April 6th, 2022

**F. ALLEGATIONS and/or CONCERNS:**

*Please provide all information that you feel is relevant to the complaint. This portion must be either typewritten or clearly printed in ink.*

I suspected my female dog of being pregnant with all the signs and symptoms clearly visible of a pregnant Dam. I brought her in to see Dr. Tim and requested x-rays and an ultrasound to confirm the pregnancy. Dr. Tim stated " We don ' t do ultrasounds " and after taking some x-rays came back and told me. " She ' s having a false pregnancy! I ' d be surprised if she had any puppies. You can go back to feeding her normally what you would feed her. No need to give her supplements or anything. If anything changes, give us a call and I can get you right in. " For the next week I returned Leah on her regular schedule and feeding routine. She continued to gain weight and further developed more apparent pregnancy symptoms. I reached out to Dr. Tim requesting another set of x-rays as I had felt Leah was absolutely pregnant. He didn ' t respond until after they were closed and texted instead of called to tell me it would be about 5 days before they could get Leah in for an x-ray that took about 5 minutes at our previous visit. Leah then went into labor, deliver 6 puppies on her own before having complications. These complications ultimately led to rushing her into an ER to have an emergency C-section to save 5 more puppies she could not deliver on her own. Leah previously had a litter of 13 healthy puppies she was able to deliver all on her own. All the puppies were healthy with no fading puppies, runts or complications. She was fed a high quality diet with prenatal vitamins and provided extra support and care. I truly believe that due to the lack of veterinary care provided by Dr. Tim as well as poor follow up manners and the neglect to test for a pregnancy in multiple ways lead to Leah not having the proper nutrition she needed to support a large litter. This lack of nutrition caused her to have a major surgery and which ultimately put her and the puppies at risk. Because of Dr. Tim I could have lost my girl and she could have lost her litter. Dr. Tim saw Leah just 2 weeks before she whelped 11 puppies and for him to have examined her twice and not be able to tell she was pregnant with such a large litter and then to instruct me that she wasn ' t and for me to withhold the proper care and nutrition needed to sustain a large litter is pure neglect. Dr. Tim should be responsible for the care of this litter as well as financially responsible for the major surgery that could have been avoided had he done his job as a Vet to properly confirm a pregnancy that was quite obvious to everyone else, including members of his staff.



Tracy Riendeau &lt;tracy.riendeau@vetboard.az.gov&gt;

**complaint 22-117**

1 message

**received**  
5/25/22

Tim Chiasson [REDACTED]

Wed, May 25, 2022 at 1:55 PM

To: "tracy.riendeau@vetboard.az.gov" &lt;tracy.riendeau@vetboard.az.gov&gt;

As shown in the records, I saw the patient on a few occasions in an effort to diagnose a pregnancy. The owner's record of the patient's history was quite unclear with regards to specific date and events of the possible pregnancy. On several occasions skeletal development was not detected so it was determined that a pregnancy was not occurring. I did tell the owner that if the dates were not accurate our radiographs may not see development yet but on two occasions I discussed and recommended an ultrasound to be more definitive. This option was declined by the owner. That was the extent of my involvement with this case.

As to the texting mentioned by the owner, I never have or never will text with clients so I don't know exactly what he is referring to.

If I can be of further assistance don't hesitate to contact me.

Sent from Mail for Windows

**DOUGLAS A. DUCEY**  
- GOVERNOR -



**VICTORIA WHITMORE**  
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -

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VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

**INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**TO:** Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

**FROM:** AM Investigative Committee: Carolyn Ratajack - Chair  
Christina Tran, DVM  
Robert Kritsberg, DVM  
Jarrod Butler, DVM  
Steven Seiler

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT – Investigations  
Marc Harris, Assistant Attorney General

**RE:** Case: 22-117  
Complainant(s): Rome Buttel  
Respondent(s): Timothy Chiasson, DVM (License: 3198)

**SUMMARY:**

Complaint Received at Board Office: 4/7/22  
Committee Discussion: 9/13/22  
Board IIR: 10/26/22

**APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:**

Laws as Amended August 2018  
(Lime Green); Rules as Revised September  
2013 (Yellow).

On February 1, 2022, "Leah," a 3-year-old female European Doberman was presented to Respondent for a pregnancy check. Complainant reported that the dog was bred on January 3, 2022. Respondent explained that it was too early to perform radiographs to confirm pregnancy and recommended a recheck in three weeks.

On February 17, 2020, the dog was presented to Respondent for pregnancy radiographs. Radiographs could not confirm pregnancy therefore Respondent recommended to keep treating as if pregnant and repeat radiographs the following week.

On February 22, 2022, Radiographs were repeated. Respondent stated that skeletal development was not detected therefore he felt that the dog was not pregnant – ultrasound was recommended to be more definitive; Complainant declined.

On March 8, 2022, the dog whelped 6 puppies on her own before she had to be presented to an emergency facility where a C-section was performed to remove the other puppies.

**Complainant was noticed and did not appear.**  
**Respondent was noticed and did not appear.**

**The Committee reviewed medical records, testimony, and other documentation as described below:**

- Complainant(s) narrative: *Rome Büttel*
- Respondent(s) narrative/medical record: *Timothy Chiasson, DVM*
- Consulting veterinarian(s) narrative/medical record: *SAVSEC*

**PROPOSED 'FINDINGS of FACT':**

1. On February 1, 2022, the dog was presented to Respondent for a pregnancy check. Complainant reported that the dog was bred on January 3, 2022. Respondent examined the dog (W-113; T-100.4; P-140; R-Panting) and noted some mammary enlargement with no lactation. Respondent assessed that the dog was possibly pregnant but it was too early for radiographs; rule-outs false pregnancy. Respondent recommended returning in 3 weeks to perform radiographs.

2. On February 17, 2022, the dog was presented to Respondent for exam and radiographs. Complainant reported that the dog had been scratching a lot for the last 2 – 3 days and was having some runny stools. He had started giving the dog a probiotic the previous three days. The dog was examined (W-120; T-100.7; P-140; R-Panting) and radiographs were performed. Radiographs showed no fetal/skeletal development but what appeared to be loops of uterus that were prominent therefore Respondent felt either the dog was pregnant or it was a false pregnancy. Respondent instructed Complainant to keep treating the dog as if she was pregnant and repeat the radiographs the following week at no charge. The dog's temperature was normal and there had only been a small amount of clear (vaginal?) discharge.

3. On February 22, 2022, the dog was presented for repeat radiographs. Respondent's interpretation was not documented in the medical record. Radiographs were provided to the Board office.

4. On March 4, 2022 (Friday), staff texted Complainant to assist in making an appointment. Complainant did not feel he could wait until the following Tuesday (3/8/22) to have radiographs repeated and would like to come in sooner; the dog was getting bigger and producing milk. Staff explained that they were not open until Tuesday and could double book the appointment for 9:00am.

5. On March 8, 2022, the dog was presented to Southern Arizona Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center with dystocia. Complainant reported that their regular DVM advised that the dog was either not pregnant or having a false pregnancy. The dog went into labor around midnight and delivered 6 puppies. The dog was examined; radiographs were performed and 5 feti were seen. Oxytocin was administered and one pup was produced after 15 minutes. The dog underwent a C-section to remove the remaining pups.

6. Complainant expressed concern that Respondent did not test for the dog's pregnancy besides radiographs and advised to not feed the dog proper nutrition to sustain a large litter.

7. According to Respondent, he saw the dog on several occasions in an effort to diagnose

pregnancy. The specific breeding date was unclear. Skeletal development was not detected so it was determined that pregnancy was not occurring. Respondent stated that he discussed and recommended ultrasound as it would be more definitive – Complainant declined.

8. Additionally, Complainant expressed concern that when he reached out to have radiographs performed, Respondent did not respond until after closing and texted instead of calling. Respondent stated that he has not and never will text with clients and did not know what Complainant was referring to.

#### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:**

The Committee discussed that at times diagnosing a dog's pregnancy can be difficult; radiographs are not definitive until late in the pregnancy. An ultrasound was suggested. There are other options that could have been offered to determine if the dog was pregnant or having a false pregnancy but the Committee did not feel that rose to the level of a violation.

The Committee felt Complainant's main concern was that if he knew the dog was pregnant he would have fed the dog differently. However, the dog's diet was changed and Respondent advised that Complainant he should treat the dog as if she was pregnant.

#### **COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS of LAW:**

The Committee concluded that no violations of the Veterinary Practice Act occurred.

#### **COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION:**

**Motion:** It was moved and seconded the Board:

*Dismiss this issue with no violation.*

**Vote:** The motion was approved with a vote of 5 to 0.

The information contained in this report was obtained from the case file, which includes the complaint, the respondent's response, any consulting veterinarian or witness input, and any other sources used to gather information for the investigation.

TR

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Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT  
Investigative Division